

Abstract

The invention relates to an isolated polypeptide which is equivalent to or similar (i.e., equivalent in function and effect) to a protein which is naturally occurring in human keratinocytes and which is increasingly expressed in the activated state of the keratinocytes. The invention also relates to an isolated nucleic acid encoding such a polypeptide or protein typical of human keratinocytes, as well as to the use of said polypeptide and said nucleic acid for the purpose of assays, particularly for diagnostic purposes, and/or for therapeutic purposes, or to the use of reagents, particularly of recombinant vector molecules and antibodies directed against such molecules. The inventive protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3 of the sequence listing or an allele or derivative of said amino acid sequence derived by amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion or inversion. The inventive nucleic acid has a nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:4 of the sequence listing or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto or a partial sequence of one of these nucleotide sequences or a nucleotide sequence which fully or partially hybridizes to any of the above-mentioned nucleotide sequences.